ROBERTS-BATES FAMILY 1922















Lemuel T. Roberts

A HISTORY OF THE ROBERTS-BATES FAMILY

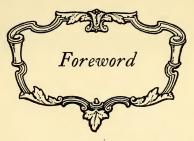
BY

LEMUEL • T • ROBERTS



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In compliance with the many urgent requests of friends on both sides of the house, I will endeavor to give a brief statement of the history of our ancestors, together with a sketch of the survivors, which must also, of necessity, be very brief.

The writer being about the last of the Roberts-Bates family and in his 85th year, will, we trust, be excused for any short comings or blunders.

Toledo, Ohio October 20th, 1921

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A History of the Roberts-Bates Family



Welsh name and though there are Scotch, Irish, French and even negroes by that name, all such are accidental. Names may be borrowed, stolen or

confiscated and changed on account of the excellency of the old, original Welch tribe and name.

Great grandfather Roberts came to America sometime in the first half of the 18th century, along about the 40's. He finally settled in Rutland, Vermont, where the most of his family was born, the elder of which was our Grandfather, Joel Roberts, who was born in Rutland,

February 17th, 1754. He also lived in Vermont the most of his life. In 1785 he married Miss Annice Cummins, who was born in Vermont in 1764. Not being overburdened with this world's goods, they had a struggle, the country at that time being little less than a wilderness. They succeeded in raising a large family, however, five of whom were born in Vermont.

About 1795 Grandfather moved to Monroe County, New York, and settled in the town of Rush, where my father, Joel Roberts was born April 15th, 1798. There were also two brothers and one sister born in Monroe County. According to the records at hand and the account given me by father, the family names and births were very nearly as follows: (It will be observed that middle names were not common in that early date);

ROBERTS

CHAUNCYBorn	in	1786
LucyBorn	in	1788
HORATIOBorn	in	1790
PHILINDABorn	in	1792
Annis CandiceBorn	in	1794
(these were born in Vermont)		

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WILLIAM was born in 1796, JOEL was born, as stated above, in Rush, Monroe County, New York, April 15, 1798.

Then comes Homer Amos Roberts—born in 1801—and last but by no means least, comes Rachel born in 1803.

A short sketch of Rachel's life will, perhaps, be timely here: She married a wealthy man of Rochester, N. Y., by the name of Derrick Sibley; he was in the grain and flour business and was also a member of the "general assembly" of New York State (in our state called the Legislature). They had one daughter, Caroline, who will be mentioned later on.

Sibley was an educated man of the old school, and inclined to be a little aristocratic. He wore his hair in a cue, and had it done up in a black ribbon, a la Washington and Jefferson. In his business it was said, that he at one time made \$2,500 in one deal in flour before he ate his breakfast, which was a fortune for those days. Later he met with reverses and lost the greater part of his fortune and moved to Ohio in 1846,

settling finally in Cincinnati, where he and Aunt Rachel both died about 1865 or 1866.

Caroline Sibley married a man by the name of Evans and lived at Walnut Hill, Cincinnati. She was a very devout Christian woman, loved by all who knew her. She died shortly before her mother, who wrote me that Caroline, knowing her end was near, made her own grave clothes and all arrangements for her funeral.

Uncle Chauncy had three sons and one daughter who moved to Ohio and lived in Cleveland. They were John, Ansel, Chauncy and Silva. John was a Methodist minister and had one daughter and one son, Orin. Orin was a banker, became well to do, and lived and died in Fremont, Ohio.

John's daughter, whose name I do not know, married a Gould in Fostoria, Ohio.

Ansel lived in Cleveland and had one daughter of whom I have lost track. In 1853 Ansel urged my father to give me to him saying he would educate and make something of me, but father declined, so I missed my one chance of becoming the President.

ROBERTS - BATES FAMILY

Chauncy also lived in Cleveland and had one daughter who married a Bement of Fostoria, Ohio.

Silva married Clark Waggoner, a newspaper man and at one time owner and editor of the Toledo Blade. Their son Ralph is now in New York.

Lucy, father's oldest sister, married a Lewis and spent her life in straightened circumstances. Of Horatio, Philinda and Annis Candice, I have no record.

William moved to Michigan sometime in the twenties, settled in Genessee County, bought land and became a properous farmer.

Before I give father's life sketch, I will say of Homer Amos, born in 1801, that he settled in Girard, Pennsylvania, and raised a family there.

Going back to Grandfather, Joel Roberts, it will be appropriate here to give a short account of his personality and life. He was not a very ambitious man and the great go-aheaditiveness of his son Joel (my father), came, it seems from the Cummins side of the house. Grandfather was always a poor man, but maybe because of no fault of his own. He was of a religious turn and

used to travel a long way to church, on one occasion, when on his way to church on horse-back, he was caught in a storm and a tree fell, struck his horse just in front of him and broke his leg, injuring him so that the himb had to be amputated. He was handicapped most of his life, so that "mother and the boys" had to earn the family bread. He died July 24th, 1839, aged 82 years and 24 days.

Father Joel Roberts was of quite a mechanical turn and the trait shows all along down through the family. Father was a millwright and miller and one of the best shoemakers of his day. I must tell briefly how he became a shoemaker. In those days every family had its own leather. Whenever a calf or beef was killed the hide was taken to the tannery and the leather made up into shoes for the family. One Sunday while the family was at church, except Joel and the two younger ones, Joel got out the cobbling tools and fashioned a shoe to see what he could do. But for fear of the result of his Sabbath work, he hid the shoe in Rachel's trinket box and she brought it forth and showed it to mother. Mother was so surprised and pleased that her verdict was that Joel should thereafter make the family shoes, and he did.

In that early day, every son was required to give his time and service to his parents until his twenty-first birthday. When father became of age, April 15th, 1798, his first work for himself was on the great Erie Canal, then being built from Buffalo to Albany. He worked on the canal about a year and saved his money "to go west."

In the spring of 1820 he took passage at Buffalo, on the first steamboat that ever ran on Lake Erie, the "Walk-in-the-water", and landed at Fairport, Lake County, Ohio. The balance of his life was spent in that county with the exception of a few years in Geauga and Ashtabula Counties, which adjoin Lake county.

Father Joel Roberts married his first wife, Miss Tabitha Fellows, in Painesville, July 4th, 1824. She had two brothers, John and Isaac, and two sisters. One married John Blossom and the other married an Odel.

There were born to Father by his first wife, one daughter and one son. Harriett Elizabeth Mecham Roberts was born June 24th, 1825; Cutler Fellows Roberts was born January 29th,

1827. There were seemingly no differences in the family on account of there being two mothers. Cutler often said that he thought just as much of his step-mother as though she were his own mother.

Harriet married Mahlon Ross in 1857 and moved to Illinois, where she raised one son, Alva, and one daughter, Ella. They resided at Verden, Illinois. Harriet died in 1891.

CUTLER'S FAMILY

Soon after Cutler became of age, in 1849, he settled in Wood County, Ohio, and bought several hundred acres of land within five miles of Toledo. Had he retained this land he would have died a rich man, but being well stocked with that unsettled disposition, he made the mistake of many, and failed.

In 1854 Cutler married Miss Janette Vass of Perrysburg, Ohio, and raised a large family which has helped to maintain the honesty and honor of the name of Roberts, and his family is as follows:

J. Orin, born Sept. 15th, 1855, N. Eugene, born Nov. 6th, 1857; Carl, March 28th, 1860;

Stella M., Sept. 14th, 1863; William F., Oct. 19th, 1865; Laura, Jan. 9th, 1868; Hattie, March 30th, 1870; Rolley, Sept. 11th, 1872; Janette, July 8th, 1874; Mott, April 13th, 1877; Nettie, August 31st, 1881.

Cutler died at McClure, Ohio, February 12th, 1907. Janette, his wife, was born October 19th, 1836, died February 10th, 1910.

Father's first wife died in 1828 and having the two children on his hands he married again in a short time to Relief Bates. Her history will appear later on. There were born to them two daughters and five sons as follows: Mary Jane, Tabitha Relief, Myron Holly, Chauncy H., Lemuel Tracy, Ransim R., William Buel.

After moving around from place to place in the first half of his married life, he finally settled down in Willoughby, Ohio, in 1845, where he, by the help of five good boys, accumulated quite a handsome property, the most of which he deeded to the two youngest sons. After a long and useful life, respected by everybody, father died at his home in Willoughby, Oct. 17th, 1870, in his seventy-third year.

MARY'S FAMILY

Mary was married to Edwin Barnes, in June 1847. There were born to them six daughters and five sons, as follows: Hattie, September 27th, 1850; Eva, May 17th, 1852; Alice, May 20th, 1854; Frederick, April 2nd, 1856; Sidney, September 23, 1857; William, January 28th, 1859; Joel, November 15th, 1862; Clemmie, May 4th, 1865; Mary, October 16th, 1867; Chauncy, September 15th, 1870; Sadie, September 19th, 1874.

Mary Jane Roberts was born in Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio, August 1st, 1830 and died at Swanton, Ohio, in June, 1901. Edwin Barnes, her husband, was born at Watertown, New York, and died at Swanton in June, 1892.

TABITHA'S FAMILY

Tabitha was married to Geo. Merrill in 1856. There were born to them one daughter and two sons, as follows: Addie, 1857, George, date not known, Grant, date not known.

Tabitha Relief Roberts was born in Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio, February 26th, 1832; she died in Willoughby, Ohio, in 1874.

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The place of birth of Geo. Merrill is not known. He died in Titusville, Penn., in 1865.

Myron's Family

Myron Holly Roberts married Maryette Abby in December, 1852. There were born to them five sons and two daughters, Charles, born December 23rd, 1853; Alzina, March 17th, 1855; Wallace, May 8th, 1859; Elmer, June 9th, 1861; Orlando H., January 7th, 1863; Joel R., October 7th, 1865; Emma, November 27th, 1867.

Myron Holly was born in Leroy, Lake County, Ohio, October 25th, 1833 and died in Ravenna, Ohio, June 1909. At this writing there are four of the sons still living. Charles, a well to do farmer in Willoughby, Ohio; Wallace, an almost life-long Railroad man; Elmer, a florist in a suburb of New York and Orlando of Cleveland, a carpenter.

CHAUNCY'S FAMILY

Chauncy was born in Leroy, Lake County, Ohio, September 5th, 1835, and died at Monclova, Ohio, May 25th, 1902.

Chauncy H. married Phoebe Inman, sometime in 1859 or 1860 and there were born to them four daughters, Mamie, Orinda, Adelaide and Norah. (Their birth dates are unknown to me). Of the daughters, Orinda Hinkle and Addie Irving and also the mother are still living, the mother being 90 years old.

The next in the family is the writer and it would seem natural and I trust righteous for him to elaborate somewhat and give a few more details and affirmations to his space in this history.

The old adage that "there is a black sheep in every flock" seems to have held good in our family. It seems to be human nature for some to want something or somebody to pick at. This was the case in our family, more especially with father and one or two brothers. As I was of a peculiar temperament they found it good picking.

Father had it in for me from birth, and was determined to call me Major Jack Downing from an "odd character" of that day. In fact he never called me any other name until I was 14 or 15 years of age. He often gave me the title of "professor."

ROBERTS-BATES FAMILY

To come down to more interesting facts, I was born with what is called a "century button", a very peculiar and unusual growth on the breast bone. I also possessed a century tooth which held out until I was 14. I was very like mother in disposition and temperament.

I must not neglect to tell of some of the incidents and narrow escapes of my life during the growing up period. When I was twenty-months old I had a severe attack of brain fever, perhaps the small brain saved me. When I was two years old sister Mary let me fall through a hole in the saw mill into the water. Barney Beach, the sawyer, made the quickest move of his life, shut the gate and fished me out. When I was four, mother took me out to the barn to see a new bossy, but the old bossy did not like my new red flannel dress so she came for me and I backed up against the stable partition; she put a long horn on each side of me and father ran around into the manger and lifted me to safety. So I might go on with close calls all my life and as I believe, had there not been a quardian over me, these lines would never have been written.

LEMUEL'S FAMILY

Lemuel T. married Isabel Williams July 5th, 1863, and to them were born one daughter and five sons as follows: Lucinda Leslie, born Oct. 9th, 1864; R. Wesley, born May 6th, 1868; Earl L., April 14th, 1874; Leon H., born March 19th, 1876; Wilford B., born September 21st, 1880; Daniel M., born April 19th, 1883.

Isabell William Roberts was born in Leamington, Canada, October 4th, 1846, and died in Wood County, Ohio, February 13th, 1894.

Lemuel T. Roberts was born in Thompson, Geauga County, Ohio, September 20th, 1837, and is in good general health in his 85th year, at this writing, with a very gracious thanksgiving.

RANSOM'S FAMILY

Ransom R. married Maggie Woolsey in Cleveland about 1864. To them were born four sons and one daughter as follows: Lincoln, Harry, Cutler, Lulu and Charles. I am sorry I have not the dates of their births. They are all married and have families and as far as I know are prosperous and happy. Ransom was born in

ROBERTS-BATES FAMILY

Ashtabula County, Ohio August 25th, 1841, and is still living at Willoughby, his life long home.

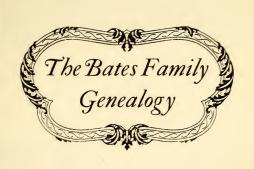
Maggie Woolsey Roberts was an adopted daughter of Benjamin Woolsey of Willoughby, Ohio. She was born April 2nd, 1842, and died March 20th, 1898, in her home at Willoughby, Ohio. She was a very exemplary woman and was loved by all who knew her.

WILLIAM'S FAMILY

William B. married Olive Whitney at Willoughby about 1867. To them were born one daughter and two sons; Edith M. Ruel and Ellwyn. I have no birth date figures. William made a contract with himself at an early stage of his married life to give his children a college education which he carried out and the children are all graduates of Oberlin college. They are among those who do not forget that their name is Roberts.

William Buel was born in Willoughby, Ohio, June 3rd, 1846, and died within two and a half miles of his birth place, October 18th, 1905.





Dating from 1485





The Bates Genealogy from 1485 Down to Mother's Family, Relief Bates Roberts



degree of pride that I degree of pride that I am per-滕目 mitted to show how and in what degree we are connected with the old and honored family and name of Bates.

The ancestors of Clement Bates of Hingham, England, can be traced back to John Bates of Lydd Parish of All Hollow, County of Kent, England, who died in 1522. The ancestry of this John is not certainly determined. A commonly accepted statement of Lydd, was that he died in 1485, leaving a son John, but another authority gives the following:

First-John Bates of Lydd, named in the wills of his brother William and his son Henry, both wills dated 1478. Second—Henry Bates of Lydd, whose wife was named Agnes, will dated May 20th, 1478, had five children, James, Simon, Andrew, Thomas and George.

Third—James Bates of Lydd, had three sons, John, Thomas and George.

Fourth—John Bates of Lydd, died in 1522, leaving two sons, Thomas and Andrew.

He was Jurat (meaning Mayor) of Lydd, and in his will left about 20 pounds to the Lydd Church.

Fifth—Andrew Bates of Lydd, died in 1533. He had children, John, Simon, William, Katherine, John and Thomas. It will be noticed there are frequently two children of a family by the same name. That comes of the custom of those days to name the second John after the first John is dead.

Sixth—John Bates of Lydd, Jurat, married Mildred Ward, October 28th, 1546, who was buried June 2nd, 1577. He married Mary Bennett, June 16th,

1579. He was buried March 1st, 1580. He had four children, Mary, James, Thomas and Andrew.

Seventh—James Bates of Lydd, yeoman (farmer) married Mary Martin, June 6th, 1580. He died March, 1614. He had children Robert, James (twins) 1582. Anna—Anna again, John, Thomas, Edward—born 1605; Clement—born 1595; Joseph, Mary, Isaac, Rachael and Martha. His son James settled at Dorchester, Mass. His son Clement settled in Hingham, Mass., and probably others of the family settled in neighboring towns. His son Edward settled in Boston.

Eighth—Clement Bates was baptised at Lydd, England, January 22, 1595. In the list of immigrants to America it is recorded that Clement Bates, aged 40, a tailor, with Ann, his wife, also aged 40, five children and two servants embarked at London for New England, April 6th, 1635, in the ship Elizabeth.

He came to Hingham, Massachusetts, and on September 18th, 1635, he received a grant of five acres of land which has been held by his descendents almost continuously to the present time. Ann, his wife, born in England in 1595, died in Hingham October 1st, 1669, aged 74 years.

Clement Bates was made freeman March 3rd, 1635, and died September 17th, 1671, aged 76. Their children were, James, born 1621; Clement, born 1623; Rachael, born 1627; Joseph, born 1630; Benjamin, born 1633; Samuel, born 1639. Notice that Samuel was born in Massachusetts.

Joseph Bates, born in England in 1630, married Esther Hilliard, daughter of Anthony, in Hingham, June 9th, 1657 or 1658. Joseph died April 30th, 1706. She died June 3rd, 1709. He was a bricklayer, constable, Selectman four times, and sexton of the parish. Their children were Joseph, born 1660; Esther, born 1663; Caleb, born 1666; Hannah, born 1668; Joshua, born 1671; Bathsheba, born 1674; Clement, born 1676; Elenor, born 1679; Abagail, born 1680.

Joshua Bates was born at Hingham, Massachusetts, August 14th, 1671. He married Rachel Tower (who was born March 16th, 1674) January 15th, 1695. Their children, born at Hingham, were Rachel, born 1696; Joshua, born 1698, died 1757; Bathsheba, born 1700; Elizabeth, born 1703; Solomon, born 1706; Isaac, born 1708; Jacob, born 1710.

Solomon Bates was born at Hingham, April 13th, 1706. He resided in the second precinct toward Situate. This second precinct was set off as Cohasset in 1770. He married Deborah Studley of Situate, daughter of Benjamin Studley and Mary Merritt, December 14th, 1732. He died probably at Cohassett 1779, as his will was probated June 28th, 1779 and was recorded in Suffolk County records. Their children were Benjamin, born August 9th, 1733; Abner, born May 29th, 1735; Deborah, born October 28th, 1737; Nehemiah, born June 19th, 1740; Solomon, baptised August 15th, 1742; James, born May 19th, 1743; Desire, baptised January 27th, 1747.

Benjamin Bates, born August 9th, 1733, married Hulda Cudworth, December 8th, 1757, and

moved to Chesterfield. He died at Leroy, Lake County, Ohio, May 3rd, 1815. Hulda died at Leroy, August 6th, 1811.

Benjamin Bates served as private in Captain Benjamin Bauney's Company, Col. Ezra May's Regiment. Enlisted September 20th, 1777, discharged October 14th, 1777. Service 29 days. Marched to Stillwater. Roll dated Chesterfield, page 781, Massachusetts—Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution. His grave has been located and marked by the New Connecticut Chapter D. A. R. of Painesville, Ohio, (Refer to National No. 72,632. Also No. 72,633, Indiana).

Children of Benjamin and Hulda. Deborah, born 1760. Married Abijah Whitten 1779; Caleb, born November 14th, 1763. Married Mary Wilber; Abagail, birth unknown; Benjamin, born 1770; Caleb Bates, born November 14th, 1763. Served as a private in the Colonial Company, 4th Massachusetts Regiment, commanded by Col. Wm. Shepherd, Revolutionary War, Continental Army. Enlisted July 9th, 1780, to serve 6 months and was discharged December 14th, 1780, (these papers have also been accepted at Washington). Mary Wilber, born July

1st, 1767. Died about 1843 or 1844. Their child, Mary Polly, born 1787, was married first to Zophar Warner January 25th, 1809, second to Noah Worden. Zophar Warner was killed by Benjamin Wright in 1822. Wright was executed at Painesville in 1823. Polly married Worden about 1827. She had five children by Warner and one by Worden. She died at her home in Willoughby in 1868.

Aunt Polly, in her younger days, was a veritable athlete. She could stand beside a wagon and lift a barrel of cider to the ground with ease. One time when her father was standing in the village grocery, someone remarked that no one could lift a barrel of molasses that stood there. Bates said, "my daughter can do it". When she came in they asked her to do it and she lifted it and set it on the counter.

At the time Ben Wright stabbed Warner he reached up and took a rifle from its hook on the beam, which rifle seems to have been the bone of contention between the two. He mumbled something about being the owner of that gun. Aunt Polly stepped up and twisted the rifle from his hands and said, "now you get out,"

pointing to the door. Mary's (Polly's) children were Zophar, born 1811; Polly, 1813; Levi, 1815; Carlos, 1819; Samuel, 1822. Zophar lived to be 95 and died at Willoughby in 1905. Polly's son, John Worden, was born 1831 and was lost from a vessel on Lake Erie, about ten miles off Erie. His body was never recovered. It was supposed that it went over Niagara Falls. This happened in 1849.

Caleb Bates Jr. was born in 1790 in Chesterfield, Massachusetts. When he was 19 he came to Ohio with his grandfather, Benjamin Bates, his father Caleb Bates and his uncle Benjamin, who went on and settled in Michigan. Some of his grand-children now live at Thompson, Geauga County, Ohio. Their names are Pomeroy.

It will be fitting, I think, to give here a few reminiscences of grandfather Caleb's life. When he, with his father and mother and a large family came to Ohio in 1809, they found an almost unbroken wilderness and suffered great privations. They came all the way from Massachusetts by horse team and settled in Perry, Lake County, where they cleared and made a

beautiful farm. Grandfather was also the owner of a beautiful tract of land in Huron County, but being still farther into the wilderness he disposed of it in this way: Axes were then staple goods and one of the few things that brought ready cash. Some man from the east who had brought a large consignment of axes offered grandfather three hundred axes for his Huron County land. Grandfather accepted the offer and on delivery stored them in a log shanty which later on was burned to the ground destroying every axe. And so went the Huron County land which at that day was worth about \$1.25 per acre.

For some years they had a terrible struggle to make ends meet. At one time grandfather was cutting some ice from a slab and a glancing blow put the axe through the sole of his foot. There being no Doctor in reach, he nearly bled to death, the blood going through a feather bed, making a puddle on the floor. They finally got it checked and after some months he was again ready for the battle.

Caleb Jr. married Maria White, sister of Samuel White, who married Charlotte Bates.

Caleb was married in 1814. Their children were: Horatio, born February 18th, 1815; Ira; John; Clarrisa, born August 10th, 1820; Charlotte; Addison; Uri, born May 22d, 1826; Caleb, born April 20th, 1829; Maria, born 1832; Wilford, 1835.

When Caleb visited us in 1854 he was in failing health and died in 1855, aged 65.

Rebecca, who was born 1795, is next in line. She married Solomon R. Gurney first and had two sons by him, Martin and Asa. She married Gurney in Cumington, Massachusetts, June 8th, 1809. Gurney was born in the above place August 2d, 1788 and died at Perry, Ohio, Aug. 5th, 1815. Rebecca then married again Elijah Emerson, born March 18th, 1818. Violet, Sylvia and Savilla, Joseph married Mary Jones July 14th, 1840. He died May 25th, 1896. Their son Elijah, born September 16th, 1841, and still living, married Catherine Longaker, October 24th, 1868. She was born June 30th, 1841, and died April 1st, 1910. Their children were: Florence A., born June 28th, 1870, died June 18th, 1892; Janette, born April 15th, 1872; Frances Estella, born September 21st, 1877.

Frances Emerson is now the historian of the D. A. R. of Indiana. Asa Gurney, Rebecca's second son, was born at Perry, October 11th, 1812, and died in Kidder, Missouri, April 4th, 1885. He has a daughter living in Missouri who married a Darby. As to how things were in the early days, we will here give a letter (verbatim) written by Caleb Bates in 1817 to Asa Gurney in Massachusetts. I have no record of Rebecca's death.

Perry, O., Sept. the 4th, 1817
I will sit down to write you a few lines for I have delaid all ready too long. My family and father's family and Joshua and his are all well. Rebekah has got married again and her two little boys are well. She has done very well. Robert Martin lives with her and Asa lives with father and goes to school and he learns very fast. They are both smart active boys. Their father left 200 acres of land for them which was paid for when he died and left other property enough to pay the taxes till the children become of age if they live. They have one cow put out to double in three years and three more that they shall be kept out until they want them

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themselves. I am administrator and quardian for the children and they shant be wronged in no respect whatever. Rebekah's husband's name is Elijah Emerson. He had no children and he makes a great deal of Martin. The five clocks that you sent up here were not sold. They were appraised with the rest of the property at five dollars apiece. Those that belonged to him are not all sold and they wont sell very well. The country is full of clocks and some have sold here at eight dollars apiece. If you come into this country do you bring such articles as shoes, cotton yarn and cotton shirting and sheeting and some woolen cloth. These articles will do well here. The scarcity of money makes business at a low ebb here but I think that those articles that I mentioned will bring cash here and pay the transportation. Well wheat came in here in abundance this season although it is one dollar and fifty cents a bushel. We have I expect three hundred and fifty bushels of the best of wheat and we have twenty acres of corn on the ground and it looks well and if I could by wishing get it there I would give my old friends a few bushels of wheat to make them some cakes. We

live three miles from the well situated village of Painesville. It is populating very fast indeed. One hundred and twenty miles from Pittsburgh and the Country begins to flow with milk and honey. We begin to hear the rumors of war again. God send it until we have made our enemies our footstools. The President has been into this country to view our frontiers. The word foe is scarcely heard in our land. The people in this country are all united in the republican ticket. There has been some few Washingtonians but their mouths are stopped.

I have got two fine boys. Joshua has one boy. Joshua and I live together. We have got an excellent farm here—seventy acres of it is the best flats on the grand river. We have two hundred and six acres of land. The upland is equal to any in this country.

We wish you would give our respects to uncle Whitten's folks. Tell them that we are all well and that we are better off here than we ever was before, for there is a good market for all we can raise. We shall sow thirty acres of wheat and rye this fall. I think that we are as well off as uncle Benjamin is with all grandfather's property

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for he is up to his ears in law and the prospect is that he will spend a great share of his property before he has done. By the will as it stands he is under obligation to pay Aunt Whitten twenty five dollars for their part had to the amount of fifteen dollars of the property and he is as well off without it as uncle Benjamin is with it. If you come up this winter we will fetch you some bear skins and deer skins for we shant fail of getting some every winter. Give our respects to all the neighbors. Father and mother send their respects to your father and mother and it is a great satisfaction to them to have the care of their little grandson Asa. I must forebear writing for I am in a hurry. This from your ever dear friend.

Caleb Bates, Jr. to Asa Gurney, Sr.

Joshua Bates is the fourth in our branch of the Bates family. He was born in Massachusetts June 15th, 1795. Although only fifteen when he came to Ohio, he turned out to be the chief hunter of the family and the first year in the forests of Perry and Leroy he killed sixteen bears and other game in great abundance. My records of

Uncle Josh are very spare. His wife we knew only as Aunt Peggie and she was a character all alone and independent of all others and Uncle Josh's life was made useful and pleasant by her happy go lucky disposition. I believe they had two sons, Storm and Josiah, and three or four daughters. Storm lived to be a very old man and was still alive two years ago. Josiah was the writer's favorite cousin and father used to call me Si Bates, thinking he would spite me, but nothing pleased me more. Uncle Josh lived in Leroy and died about 1889 or 1890. The family, I believe, have all passed away.

Charlotte the fifth of the family was born January 21st, 1797. She was the heavy weight of the family, weighing about 250 to 260. She married Samuel White, brother to Uncle Caleb's wife, so their children and Caleb's children were double cousins. Another coincidence is that Caleb had seven sons and Charlotte seven daughters.

Their children were Arvine, Louisa, Malissa, Emaline, Permilla, Angeline, Charlotte, Doara, Ansel and Henry. They were well to do farmers. The old maid Charlotte still lives in the old homestead at Painesville and is now 84. I have no record of Charlotte's death but Uncle Sam White died in 1856.

Electa Bates was born December 8th, 1799. She was married July 4th, 1822, to William Chilson. Though I have no record of the family, I believe they moved to Michigan and know of one daughter, Sally Jane, who married a Davis. Aunt Electa lived to be 86 years of age and died some where in the west.

Edith Bates was born February 4th, 1803. She married Dudley Crofoot, and had two sons and one daughter, Leonard, Joel and Edith. Leonard lived in Mishawaukee, Indiana. Joel spent the most of his life on the beautiful Indian Point farm, in Leroy, Lake County, Ohio. He died about 1910 or 1911. One son, John, is still living in Painesville. Joel was a grand man and very much of a Bates. Edith, the daughter, died without marrying. Edith Bates Crofoot did not live to be very old but I have no record of her death.

Relief Bates was born in Chesterfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, January 26th, 1805. Her father, Caleb Bates, soon after her birth moved to South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Mother has often told me that they could see "Mount Tom" from their place, but they pulled up stakes and all hands moved to Ohio in 1809, settling in Lake County, Ohio. I believe mother spent her whole life, after coming to Ohio, in Lake County, with the exception of two years in Thompson, Geauga County, where the writer was born, and four years in Ashtabula County. She married Joel Roberts October 1st, 1829. The history of her family will be found in the Roberts department of this book. However, a few lines of her life will be given here.

Mother died in her home in Willoughby, August 1th, 1884, in her 80th year. She spent a long life of usefulness and hard work and raised a large family who cherished her memory and are proud of her name and love. Mother was a woman of very peculiar tempermant and trait. She put more faith in her diplomacy than in coercion. She so managed that we thought it a privilege to serve and obey her. I used to put a feather in my cap when she told me I was the best boy she had. Perhaps she favored me more on account of my being father's chopping block. There was none of the family but that thought

we had the best mother that ever was. Mother suffered very much by being isolated from her own people and it was a bright spot in her life when we moved near to Aunt Polly and Lydia in 1845. While I could write page after page about mother and her folks, perhaps the foregoing will suffice.

Lydia Bates was born in South Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1807. She married Henry Sweet about 1835. He was a widower with three boys. Three boys were added, Ebenezer, 1837, Henry, 1839, and Isaiah, 1841. They lived in the Michigan woods until somewhere about 1840, when they moved to Joliet, Illinois, where Sweet died in 1843.

Sweet, while living in the Michigan woods, was very friendly with some of the big Indians. One in particular was chummy with him. They both were very fond of "fire water" and they had great times hunting bear. Aunt Lyd used to tell some great stories about old chief *Mitiau*. Lydia died in Illinois in 1889 in her 86th year. Her son Isaiah went into the war in 1861, was reported missing and was never heard of thereafter.

With a few references touching uncle Caleb's family in Hillsdale, I will ring off, although I confess this book is far short of what it might have been and what I wish it were. Uncle Caleb for some unaccountable reason sold his farm in Perry, Ohio, and moved to Hillsdale, Michigan in 1835. Team power was the only means of transportation in those days so he had an immense job on hand, especially as it was in winter. The two oldest boys footed it all the way and drove the stock. Horatio, the oldest boy, has often told me what a terrible time he had getting the cattle across the Maumee river on the ice at Perrysburg. They again broke into a wilderness and had Indians and wild animals for their neighbors on the journey, as they had from Massachusetts to Ohio. Lydia was the baby on the first journey and on the second, Wilford was the baby. As before mentioned there were seven sons in the family. Of course, the seventh became a doctor, hence we had Dr. Wilford B. Bates. Horatio was born February 18th, 1815, and died November, 1899. Ira was born in 1817; no record of death. Clarissa, born August 10th, 1820, and died February 1895. Then, I believe, John and

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Charlotte, but there are no dates. Uri S., born May 22, 1826, died April 17th, 1896; Caleb, born April 20th, 1829, died July 20th, 1901. I am not certain these figures are correct but think I have left Addison out, whose dates I have lost, but I will mention all and the friends can correct. Maria, born in 1832, died in 1895, I believe. Wilford, born November 19th, 1835, died November 6th, 1901. Polly, the youngest of the family, I have no record of, but believe she is still living.

Last but not least let me mention the mother of this family, the most exemplary and sweetest Aunt and mother anyone could ever wish for. She was born in 1798, and died April 17th, 1861. These dear cousins all raised families who have maintained and kept unsullied the good old name of Bates.

Additional Historical Data





































